

R865. Tax Commission, Auditing.

R865-9I. Income Tax.

R865-9I-44. Mandatory Withholding of Income for Nonresident Professional Athletes Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. Sections 59-10-116, 59-10-117, and 59-10-118.

(1) Definitions.

(a) "Duty days" means all days during the taxable year from the beginning of the professional athletic team's official preseason training period through the last game in which the team competes or is scheduled to compete.

(i) Duty days includes:

(A) days on which a member of a professional athletic team renders a service for a team on a date that does not fall within the period described in Subsection (1)(a), for example, participation in instructional leagues, the Pro Bowl, or promotional caravans. Rendering a service includes conducting training and rehabilitation activities, but only if conducted at the facilities of the team; and

(B) game days, practice days, days spent at team meetings, promotional caravans, and preseason training camps, and days served with the team through all postseason games in which the team competes or is scheduled to compete.

(ii) Duty days for any person who joins a team during the season shall begin on the day that person joins the team, and for a person who leaves a team shall end on the day that person leaves the team. If a person switches teams during a taxable year, a separate duty day calculation shall be made for the period that person was with each team.

(iii) Days for which a member of a professional athletic team is not compensated and is not rendering services for the team in any manner, including days when the member of a professional athletic team has been suspended without pay and prohibited from performing any services for the team, shall not be treated as duty days.

(iv) Days for which a member of a professional athletic team is on the disabled list shall be presumed not to be duty days spent in the state. They shall, however, be included in total duty days spent within and without the state.

(v) Travel days that do not involve either a game, practice, team meeting, promotional caravan or other similar team event are not considered duty days spent in the state, but shall be considered duty days spent within and without the state.

(b) "Member of a professional athletic team" shall include those employees who are active players, players on the disabled list, and any other persons required to travel and who do travel with and perform services on behalf of a professional athletic team on a regular basis. This includes coaches, managers, and trainers.

(c) "Professional athletic team" includes any professional baseball, basketball, football, soccer, or hockey team that is not incorporated or organized under the laws of this state.

(d) "Total compensation" includes salaries, wages, bonuses, and any other type of compensation paid during the taxable year to a member of a professional athletic team for services performed in that year.

(i) Total compensation does not include strike benefits, severance pay, termination pay, contract or option-year buyout payments, expansion or relocation payments, or any other payments not related to services rendered to the team.

(ii) For purposes of this rule, "bonuses" subject to the allocation procedures described in Subsection (5) are:

(A) bonuses earned as a result of play during the season, including performance bonuses, bonuses paid for championship, playoff or bowl games played by a team, or for selection to all-star league or other honorary positions; and

(B) bonuses paid for signing a contract, unless all of the following conditions are met:

(I) the payment of the signing bonus is not conditional upon the signee playing any games for the team, or performing any subsequent services for the team, or even making the team;

(II) the signing bonus is payable separately from the salary and any other compensation; and

(III) the signing bonus is nonrefundable.

(e) "Total compensation for services rendered as a member of a professional athletic team" means the total compensation received during the taxable year for services rendered:

(i) from the beginning of the official preseason training period through the last game in which the team competes or is scheduled to compete during that taxable year; and

(ii) during the taxable year on a date that does not fall within the period in Subsection (1)(e) (i), for example, participation in instructional leagues, the Pro Bowl, or promotional caravans.

(2) The purpose of this rule is to apportion to the state, in a fair and equitable manner, a nonresident member of a professional athletic team's total compensation for services rendered as a member of a professional athletic team. It is presumed that application of the provisions of this rule will result in a fair and equitable apportionment of that compensation. Where it is demonstrated that the method provided under this rule does not fairly and equitably apportion that compensation, the commission may require the member of a professional athletic team to apportion that compensation under a method the commission prescribes, as long as the prescribed method results in a fair and equitable apportionment.

(3) If a nonresident member of a professional athletic team demonstrates that the method provided under this rule does not fairly and equitably apportion compensation, that member may submit a proposal for an alternative method to apportion compensation. If approved, the proposed method must be fully explained in the nonresident member of a professional athletic team's nonresident personal income tax return for the state.

(4) A professional athletic team:

(a) is an employer for purposes of Title 59, Chapter 10, Part 4, Withholding of Tax; and

(b) may not be relieved from the requirements imposed on an employer under Title 59, Chapter 10, Part 4, Withholding of Tax.

(5) Nonresident professional athletes shall keep adequate records to substantiate their determination or to permit a determination by the commission of the part of their adjusted gross income that was derived from or connected with sources in this state.

(6) The Utah source income of a nonresident individual who is a member of a professional athletic team includes that portion of the individual's total compensation for services rendered as a member of a professional athletic team during the taxable year which, the number of duty days spent within the state rendering services for the team in any manner during the taxable year, bears to the total number of duty days spent both within and without the state during the taxable year.

(7)(a) Professional athletic teams shall withhold and remit tax on behalf of nonresident professional athletes on a form prescribed by the commission.

(b) A schedule shall be included with the return, listing all of the following information for each nonresident member of a professional athletic team:

(i) name;

(ii) address;

- (iii) social security number;
 - (iv) income attributable to Utah for the nonresident member of a professional athletic team;
 - (v) total compensation paid to the nonresident member of a professional athletic team by the professional athletic team;
 - (vi) the nonresident member of a professional athletic team's duty days both within and without the state;
 - (vii) the nonresident member of a professional athletic team's duty days within the state;
 - (viii) Utah tax deducted and withheld; and
 - (ix) federal income tax deducted and withheld.
- (8) A nonresident member of a professional athletic team is not required to file an individual income tax return if:
- (a) the professional athletic team deducts and withholds a tax on behalf of the nonresident member of a professional athletic team;
 - (b) the nonresident member of a professional athletic team does not seek to claim a tax credit under Title 59, Chapter 10, Individual Income Tax Act; and
 - (c) the nonresident member of a professional athletic team does not have adjusted gross income derived from or connected with Utah sources other than the income the member of a professional athletic team receives from the professional athletic team.

KEY: historic preservation, income tax, tax returns, enterprise zones

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